



NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLC HLYTHYR

Dates for your diary: More details on page 3. Lectures start at 2.30pm (unless otherwise stated) and are held in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge.

Meetings have of course been postponed for now but have a look at page 3 for a taste of the good meetings to come

We'll issue a revised programme in due course, including arrangements for the Annual General Meeting.

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Menai Bridge and
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Cymdeithas
Ddinesig Bro**

Summer/Haf 2020

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PENMON SCHOOL



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Penmon School is a Church School built in 1860, serving the farming community around Penmon village, down to Trwyn Du and towards Llanfaes. It is now a private house but during the First World War had over 50 pupils or scholars as the (head) Mistress referred to them in the school diary. Scholars included an infant class and one for those up to 14 years of age. We are grateful to Carol West, who went to the school herself, for conserving the record book. Below are some of the entries for the start of WWI.

1914 visited by 2 Belgian refugees
1915 Coal shortage. No fires for most of February and March
Nov 1915 Mistress on leave as relatives were on the eve of departure for the Front
April 1916 Mistress absent bad news from the Front
June 1916 Boys absent, needed on farms
Dec 1916 Pupils taken to observe Airship over the Strait.
1917 27th February Attendance Officer visited. 1 cwt of coal delivered
2nd March St David's Day celebrations held this afternoon. Rev. G Williams gave an interesting address on St David. The children sang patriotic songs and several scholars recited poems teaching patriotism and bearing thoughts upon the times through which we are now passing.

7th March Very cold and snowy day—low attendance but registers were marked.
14th March Nurse Rowlands called today - reported two cases of Scarlet in the neighbourhood.
19th March Very poor attendance today—epidemic of cold and sore throat among the scholars—one suspected case of Measles. Registers were marked.
22nd March Low attendance 26 out of roll of 56— one scholar is suspected as a Scarlet Fever case. Registers were not marked.

Work continued as usual.
23rd March Same today— have written and wired to Dr. Davies, School Medical Officer but registers were marked today.
26th March Another case of Scarlet Fever—more children suffering from cold and sore throat— 17 scholars present out of 56. Arrival of Dr. Davies— examines scholars present, explaining it is serious. Dr Davies orders the children present in school home and closes the school for a fortnight.
9th April School opened today, but owing to an Eisteddfod in town and some scholars attending it, the Vicar granted a holiday as it was Easter Monday.

The school diary covers some 10 years giving a fascinating insight into school life. As well as the diseases already mentioned Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis were prevalent. If the weather was stormy children didn't attend as they would have to sit in wet clothes all day. Some days the Mistress was late as the boat from Bangor was delayed (presume this was the ferry to Beaumaris; but did the teacher then walk from Beaumaris to Penmon?). Some treats for the children were the tea parties arranged by the Masseys of Cornelyn Manor. Despite having to teach a wide age range with little qualified help an impressive curriculum was followed. Scholars could sit a scholarship exam giving them access to the grammar school.

In the 1860s the knowledge of the cause and treatment of diseases such as those above was in its infancy. Continued on page 4.

NATIONAL NEWS

VE Day or Victory in Europe Day, marked the end of fighting in Europe in World War Two.

On **8 May 1945 at 3pm**, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before.

As well as the joy and relief VE Day was also a moment of great sadness and reflection, as millions of people had lost their lives or loved ones in the conflict with many continuing to fight in other battles or still prisoners of war abroad.

Due to the Coronavirus Emergency the majority of the VE Day 75 community celebrations due to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 8th – 10th May have been cancelled.

Commemoration events **may** be moved to the weekend of 15th – 16th August when we could celebrate VE Day and VJ Day together.

Anglesey and Menai Bridge did not suffer the intense bombing raids of our large cities but it suffered none the less and 21 service men from Menai Bridge died directly in the War.

The area also played a significant role in the war effort and this and some of the memories of those who took part both here and further afield are recorded in a special edition of our 'Memories'. Memories are still coming in so we will continue with further information in our next issue. The VE Day 'Memories' was planned before the current emergency and no comparison between the two events is intended; you'll have to make up your own mind.

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Jan. 28th Tuesday 'Tiny café - big reputation! and more'. Mr. Terry Thomas & June Lavelle. Widely known for community fundraising and providing excellent pancakes (!) as well from the Café in one of the kiosks on the Pier in Bangor. 'Whistle-stop', one of Wales' smallest cafes, was named the **Traditional Restaurant of the Year in the Welsh Food Awards 2019**.



The cafe, was awarded the title at a 500 guest event in Cardiff on 13th May 2019.



Feb. 25th Tuesday 'Carrots to Cappuccinos'. Mr. Justin Williams, Managing Director Fron Goch Garden Centre.. Tracing the development of Fron Goch over the past 30 years, Justin Williams shared his enthusiasm for the family business . It has grown from just a field supplying vegetables to local shops into one of the biggest Garden Centres in the area. Not only the largest Centre, renowned for its catering (including amazing Sunday lunches), but now awarded the **accolade of Best Garden Centre in the UK (2019)**



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Photos N Kneale



by the Garden Centre Association. Many congratulations to Justin and all the team in Caernarfon. Plants aren't bad either!

March 13th Friday. 'My life in Gardening and the Chelsea Flower Show' Guest speaker, Mr. Medwyn Williams MBE

An entertaining and informative talk by Medwyn Williams, highlighting his career as the premier vegetable grower in the



country. Winner of many Gold Medals



at Chelsea and the President's Award in 2010, Medwyn has grown a new variety of tomato - Y Ddraig Goch - the first to be officially registered with a Welsh

name. Medwyn points out his vegetables don't just look nice, they're good to eat too! We are proud to have both Medwyn and Gwenda Williams as our Vice Presidents.

The talk was followed by our **Annual Lunch** at Plas Cadnant. A delightful meal, in good company, overlooking the magnificent gardens. We were lucky to be able to hold the Lunch before the 'coronavirus lockdown' began and

FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 2.30pm in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street on Tuesday afternoon usually. Guests and non-members are welcome to meetings and outings (regular meetings, for a fee of £2). Please note the change to afternoon meetings — this is due to other bookings in the Centre (please let us know what you think of the change).

Our April Newsletter usually has details of Spring meetings, the AGM and Summer outings. This year of course we can't plan anything with any certainty, but whenever we start up meetings again you can be sure of an interesting programme. The postponed meetings are:

The Dark Island ! Rev. C. Williams (Poetic names for Anglesey include the Old Welsh Ynys Dywyll (Shady or Dark Isle) for its former groves and Ynys y Cedairn (Isle of the Brave) for its royal courts.

Annual General Meeting and talk by Mr John Cowell, 'Some early letters of local interest'.

Summer Outing - Anglesey Paper Company, 21 High Street Menai Bridge. Numbers limited to 15, refreshments provided and donations to go to the Welsh Air Ambulance.

We visit after hours, so say 5.30pm. Mrs Beal, the owner makes all the lampshades and sources materials from far and wide, including Afghanistan. We will be able to sit down in the shop.

PROVISIONAL September Saturday, GARDEN PARTY AT PLAS CADNANT

We'll send out further details in due course.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was due to be held on the 12th May 2020 but of course has been postponed. Postponed to when? At the time of writing in mid April we're not sure, because of the restrictions on meetings due to the emergency. In the circumstances, the AGM will be adjourned until such time as it is safe to do so. According to the rules set out in our Articles of Association we must hold an AGM each calendar year, each meeting being not more than fifteen months apart. This may not be possible, safety takes precedence. We will follow the guidance from Companies House, as yet to be issued and the Charities Commission. If anyone has any queries about this do please get in touch.

Jane Cherrett

FERRYMAN'S COTTAGE



The old Ferryman's Cottage on Beach Road is undergoing change! In the photo you can still see the chimney on the left and a blocked up window at the back has been made into a doorway. The roof has been removed and will be replaced using as many of the old small slates as possible. Hard to say what was holding the roof up really, all the roof rafters were rotten. The front of the property and the one room

Photo: W. Faulkner

will be retained in accordance with 'listed building status'.

While working at the property the photo of the lady on the right was found tucked away on a shelf. Do you know who she is? The photo was in a very bad condition and had no photographer's marks or address on it. The young face and hairstyle look at odds with the elaborate, formal lace collar. A strong face too, did she live there or was she just a visitor?



Let us know if you have any likely suggestions.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Subscriptions are due for renewal for the next subscription year 2020 which begins on 1st May. Please check your standing order amount is correct (£10). Cheques may be sent to Mrs R Hufton, Glan Menai, 2 Beach Road, Menai Bridge, LL59 5HB.

If we are not able to hold our regular Meetings at present we will try to provide more in the way of other resources. Our 'Memories' of VE Day, for example is four pages and further material is still coming in. If you receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, etc. we will continue with this but if you also have an e-mail address please consider letting us know. It's much easier to keep you up to date with what's happening by e-mail.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY MENAI BRIDGE AND DISTRICT? We welcome members from anywhere not just Menai Bridge! Don't think you have to live in Menai Bridge to become a member. The main focus of our activities are in and about Menai Bridge and District but we also deal with broader matters that affect us now or have in the past. Our Memories Section about VE Day is a good example. Also summer events give us the opportunity to travel further afield in all senses.

Anthony Tavernor Esq.
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See our Website at
www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk

The work of the Royal Commission and Select Committee on the Health of Towns paved the way for the Public Health Act of 1848. This marked the beginning of a new phase in sanitary legislation. A General Board of Health was founded. At the rate-payers' request or in districts where the death rate exceeded twenty-three per 1,000 of the population, a local board of health could be formed.

With the most important, but least acknowledged, of the advances that came was the creation of **part-time medical officer of health posts**. The first post established throughout England and Wales was at Liverpool in 1847.

It was in the rural district of Tywyn, Meiri-onethshire, that a permanent appointment was first made in Wales, in 1851. **John Pughe (1814-74)** undertook those duties there without payment. Born 8 September 1814 at Ysgubor Fawr, Chwaen-wen, Llanddeusant, Anglesey. He qualified as a doctor after training at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, where he received the degree of F.R.C.S. He first practised at Barmouth but later moved to Aberdovey where he spent most of his life. In his early days he lived at Clynnog-fawr, Caernarfonshire, four of his sons became doctors.

One of the major means of disease control for many years was isolation. Each town or area had its own isolation hospital or part of the work house set aside for such a purpose and not until after the Isolation Hospital Acts of 1893 and 1901 were isolation hospitals built in large numbers. Locally there was: Penhesgyn Open-Air Hospital, Menai Bridge; Druid Isolation Hospital, Mona (later moved to Llangefni); Minffordd Hospital, Bangor; Llanerchymedd Workhouse; Llam carw, Amwlch; Caernarfon Fever and Isolation Hospital, Gallt-y-Sil, Caernarfon; Bangor Workhouse, Glanadda.

We will look at schools in Menai Bridge in our next Newsletter.



Migldi Magldi Môn.

Ava, has been dancing traditional Lancashire, Welsh and Westmoreland clog step for many years. She established the group in the summer of 2018. with one person interested in learning traditional Welsh Clog dancing. Since then the group has grown to 14 dancers and now TWO musicians. (very hard to come by). So the birth of Migldi Magldi Mon! Only a few of them were 'dancers' but they have made great progress. We like to think that we are a social group and have a lot of fun at our weekly sessions (now on hold). We have danced at a few venues, i.e. WI, Cheese and Wine, a private party and of course the Garden Party. We hope to do more in the future. (Great fun— we look forward to seeing the dancers back at the Garden Party in Plas Cadnant when possible. Ed.)

Video Links Edward VIII visits Menai Bridge.

A little addition to the information about Beach House (shop). It was owned by Miss Williams and her brother. The office/telephone booth with a black 'daffodil' was the only telephone in our area, and was available for emergencies. (Maureen Parry-Williams) Blodwen Williams of Glyn Derw worked at Beach House for many years with the owners. Brothers Evan, Trefor and Idris worked for John Edwards wholesalers nearby. (Selwyn Williams) Also see Memories

It is with much sadness that we report the death of members of our Society.

The death of **Bob Daimond** in February 2020 has been widely reported in the press but we must also pay tribute to him here. He was a member of the Society Committee for many years and of course the Heritage Trust. We valued his enthusiasm and wise counsel. **David Everett** died in March. a keen Bridge player and fount of knowledge about the history of Menai Bridge and maps of the area going back to the 1800s.

Mike Hufton died at the end of March, always willing to help at Meetings and carried out much of the restoration work on the Pier Gate House. He was also very active on the War Memorial Community Centre Committee.

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

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